Administration Report of the Bangalore City Municipality for the year 1938-39.

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The Administration Report of the Bangalore City Municipality for the year 1938-39, received from the Municipal Commissioner, Bangalore City, with his letter No. Al. 33-39, dated 8th December 1939.

ORDER No. L. 8064-8—ML. 88-39-19, DATED BANGALORE, THE 21ST MARCH 1940.

Recorded.

2. *Constitution.*—The strength of the Municipal Council was the same as in the previous year, namely, 30 members, of whom 24 were elected and six nominated. Mr. N. Balakrishnaiya, B.A., LL.B., continued to be the President during the year. Sri R. Kalyanamma was the Vice-President till 5th February 1939. Mr. D. Venkataramanappa was elected as the Vice-President from 15th February 1939 and he continued as such till the end of the year under report. Consequent on the demise of Mr. P. Murugesam Pillai, a nominated member, Government in their Order No. L. 4113—Ml. 54-38-2, dated 18th November 1938, nominated Mr. V. Chikka Yellappa belonging to the Adikarnataka community in the said vacancy.

3. *Municipal Officers.*—Mr. S. Narayana Rao, M.A. (Hons.), continued to be the Municipal Commissioner during the year. Messrs. M. G. Srinivasa Peidpet, L.M.S., B.S.Sc., and B. S. Narasinga Rao, B.A., B.E., continued as the Health Officer and the Municipal Executive Engineer, respectively, during the year. Mr. K. Rangappa, B.Sc., continued to be the Personal Assistant to the Municipal Commissioner till the 31st March 1939 and Mr. C. Ramaswamy, B.A., succeeded him from that date. Mr. M. Abdul Basith was the Revenue Officer of the Municipality from 1st July 1938 to 5th August 1938 and on his transfer, he handed over charge on 6th August 1938 to Mr. M. Narasimhia, B.A., LL.B., who continued to be the Revenue Officer throughout the year under report. To expedite the collection of heavy arrears, Mr. T. Madhava Rao was appointed as Special Revenue Officer of the Municipality.

4. *Meetings.*—The Municipal Council held 65 meetings, of which 12 were ordinary, 27 adjourned and 23 special. It is gratifying to note that all the subjects referred to the Council were disposed of, leaving no arrears at the end of the year.

5. *Committees.*—There were eight committees including the Audit Committee, which was constituted in December 1938. The Managing Committee held 29 meetings (22) and the City Improvement Committee 16 meetings (17). The Committees continued to work satisfactorily. Bye-laws for regulating (1) Barbers' shops and hairdressing saloons, (2) the use of places for the preparation and manufacture of oil and for parching grains and bengalgram, (3) the inspection of instruments for weighing and weights and measures, (4) the preparation, moulding and burning of bricks, (5) the levy of fees for lighting the shops and stalls in the New Market, (6) the use of sirens, trumpets and whistles for summoning or dismissing workmen in factories and mills, (7) prohibiting the stalling or herding of cattle and the rules for regulating the preferring of appeals to the Managing Committee against the orders of the Municipal Commissioner in cases relating to the revision of assessment and for the constitution and powers of the Audit Committee were approved by Government during the year.

6. *Finance.*—The year opened with a balance of Rs. 3,39,468, out of which Rs. 1,32,985 represented the balance of the general funds of the Municipality and Rs. 2,06,483 represented the balance of the loan amount. The receipts and expenditure during the year amounted to Rs. 25,46,650 and Rs. 26,31,841, respectively, leaving a closing balance of Rs. 2,54,284. The income under Octroi amounted to Rs. 2,32,587 (Rs. 2,45,915). The decrease was chiefly under piecegoods and foreign raw silk. The quantity of piecegoods imported into the City from Bombay, Ahamedabad, Cawnpore, Nagpur, Sholapur and other such manufacturing centres is gradually decreasing owing to the manufacture and supply of goods of all designs by the local Mills. The quantity of raw silk imported is also gradually decreasing owing to the import of Kashmir and Kollegal silks in large quantities, as the latter are not dutiable and as their finish is very nearly the same as that of the former. The fall in the prices also contributed to a little extent in this behalf.

7. *Demand, Collection and Balance.*—The total demand under all heads of revenue was Rs. 17,69,117 including the arrears of Rs. 5,17,615. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 10,34.194 was collected and a sum of Rs. 398 was remitted, leaving a balance of Rs. 7,34,525 at the close of the year. The arrears are very heavy. The total demand under assessed taxes was Rs. 8,77,768 including the arrears of Rs. 3,95,362 outstanding at the beginning of the year. Out of this, a sum of Rs. 4,48,653 was collected, leaving a balance of Rs. 4,29,115 at the end of the year. There was an increase in the demand during the year under report as a result of the levy of assessment at the revised rates in the III, VI and VII Divisions. The percentage of collection during the year was 51·1 (47·4). The collection work was not satisfactory in spite of the fact that a temporary staff consisting of two officers, four shanbhogs and two divisional accountants were appointed from the middle of February 1939. Government cannot but impress upon the Municipal Commissioner the necessity of devoting his personal attention to this important item of work so that the arrears may be reduced.

8. *Incidents of Taxation.*—The incidence of taxation per head of population was Rs. 4-11-4 (Rs. 4-2-10).

9. *Public Works.*—The total expenditure under this head was Rs. 1,47,145 (1,39,398). The items of work related chiefly to the construction of new roads, drains and buildings, among which may be mentioned the following :—

(i) Forming Dattatreya Extension in VII Division.
(ii) Construction of storm water drains in Krishnarajendra Road sewage drains in Goripalya and drains in Albert Victor Road.
(iii) Construction of rooms at the rear of the lorry sheds.
(iv) Formation of circles at the old Veterinary Hospital in Basavangudi and at Dr. Armugam Mudaliar's House; formation of foot-paths in Krishnarajendra Road and in Basavangudi ; and forming roads in Narasimharaja Colony.

A sum of Rs. 7,06,721 was spent out of loan funds for the following works :—

	Rs.
Advance for water-supply charges and sinking funds	1,80,005
Municipal office extension	11,085
For tarring works	41,612
For drainage works	3,00,000
For layouts	1,30,000
For meters	17,000
Advance for the construction of school buildings ...	26,035

10. *Government Grant and City Improvement Works.*—Excluding the sum of Rs. 25,000 paid by Government towards the cost of acquiring the premises of the Whitelead Syndicate, the Government grant for improvement works during the year was Rs. 45,000 (Rs. 30,000 as subvention towards water-supply and Rs. 15,000 for City Improvement Works). Out of a total sum of Rs. 65,000, a sum of Rs. 48,675 was spent under this head. The following were some of the City Improvement Works executed during the year :—

(1) Flushout latrines in the general market.
(2) Providing zinc sheet shed in vegetable market in III Division.
(3) Sweepers' huts in Risaldar Street.
(4) Swimming Pond near Sampangy Tank.
(5) Providing burnt stone slabs in the Venkatarangiengar Road.
(6) Forming and levelling Sir M. N. Krishna Rao's Circle.
(7) Picking and forming portions in Magadi Road.
(8) Constructing combined latrine and urinals in Armugam Mudaliar Lane.
(9) Constructing combined latrine and urinals in Ragipet, V Division.
(10) Constructing combined latrine and urinals opposite the Majestic Theatre, II Division.
(11) Constructing combined latrine and urinals in Taramandalpet, IV Division.
(12) Fixing ornamental fountain in front of Market.
(13) Installing new cable in the City New Market and
(14) Combined urinal in the Grain Bazaar, III Division.

11. *Underground Drainage and other Works.*—Out of Rs. 6 lakhs set apart for drainage works, a sum of Rs. 3,00,000 was paid to the Sanitary Department for the construction of sub-mains and sewers in certain portions of the City. A Special Officer for the City Drainage Works has since been appointed to formulate a comprehensive scheme of drainage and to push through the work.

The work of extension of the New Municipal Office which was under progress and the construction of a restaurant at an estimated cost of Rs. 5,600 has since been completed. The construction of a swimming pool in the compound of the Municipal Offices was taken up. The work of constructing a combined public convenience unit providing for bathing, and washing platforms, flushout urinals and latrines in the Old Bathing Ghat, Uttaradi Mutt Lane, Chikpet, Bangalore City, is under progress.

12. *Water Supply.*—The control of water-supply continued to vest in the Public Works Department. Revised rules for regulating the supply of water in the City have since been issued. A sum of Rs. 67,000 was advanced out of loan funds for purchasing and installing meters.

13. *Public Health.*—The health of the City continued to be generally good. There were 19 attacks and 14 deaths from plague. The number of anti-plague inoculations performed was 2,029 and the number of vaccinations 11,366. Special attention was paid to the inspection of food stuffs in the City. One hundred and eighty cases relating to food adulteration were pending at the beginning of the year and 1,434 fresh cases were instituted during the year, making a total of 1,614 for disposal. Of these, 475 cases were withdrawn and 1,139 cases were proceeded with. Six hundred and eighty-one cases ended in conviction. A sum of Rs. 4,084-8-0 was realised by the levy of fines. Thirty-nine cases ended in acquittal, 154 were struck off and 257 were pending disposal at the end of the year. It is gratifying to note that there were neither attacks nor deaths from cholera during the year as a result of the precautionary measures adopted by way of anti-cholera inoculations by the Health Department. The anti-malaria and culex work was continued. A new Dispensary was opened at Munireddypalyam. Mr. B. Appiah Naidu, Foreman of the Mysore Spinning and Manufacturing Company, offered to pay a donation of Rs. 15,000 for the construction of a Maternity Home in Malleswaram. The foundation stone of this building was laid by *Amin-ul-Mulk* Sir Mirza M. Ismail, K.C.I.E., O.B.E., Dewan of Mysore, on 30th August 1939 and the work of constructing this building is progressing.

14. *Maternity and Child Welfare.*—Two Lady Health Visitors and 11 Midwives attended to this work under the supervision of the Health Officer and the number of labour cases attended by the midwives was 975 as against 2,311 in the previous year. A new Maternity Home by name "Seth Challaram Kishendas Maternity Home" near Kempegowda Road was started during the year and Mr. Ramnarayan Bhagavandas generously donated the amount required for the construction of the building. The opening ceremony was performed by *Rajmantrapravina* K. V. Anantaraman, B.A., Second Member of Council, on 29th March 1939. The control and maintenance of the institution vest in the Municipality. The Municipal Maternity Home and Belli-Mutt Creche continued to do good work.

15. *Public Instruction.*—The Municipal Council continued to be the Local Education Authority in respect of the Primary Schools in the Bangalore City. The total number of institutions under the control of the School Board was 63 (60) with 10,781 pupils as against 10,284 in the previous year. The total receipts under the Elementary Education Fund amounted to Rs. 1,13,302 (1,13,299). The Government and the Municipal contributions amounted to Rs. 61,955 and Rs. 47,000, respectively. The expenditure amounted to Rs. 1,14,573. The Purniah Choultry was converted into a school building at a cost of Rs. 7,601 and the Kilari Road Primary School was shifted to it on 22nd May 1939. The construction of the Barr Line School (Urdu Girls' School) is almost completed.

16. *Acquisition.*—The Municipal Commissioner continued to be the Land Acquisition Officer throughout the year. The Municipal grant under this head was Rs. 28,000 (Rs. 35,000) and a sum of Rs. 26,570 (Rs. 32,224) was spent. A large number of properties was acquired for different purposes.

17. *General.*—The status of the Municipal Engineer was raised to that of an Executive Engineer and he was also given the assistance of an Assistant Engineer as the work was very heavy for one officer. Three radio sets were purchased for being installed in three different places. The Market Show was held in January 1939. The Purniah Choultry having been converted into a school building, the vagrants who were hitherto resorting to the verandah of the choultry had to be provided with shelter elsewhere. A site behind the Seshamma's Students' Hostel was accordingly selected for the purpose and a building has been put up. Mr. B. K. Chikkaveerappa has donated a sum of Rs. 3,000 for the construction of two more blocks and the opening ceremony thereof was performed by the Dewan on 21st January 1940. A five-year programme for the construction, at a cost of Rs. 1,50,000, of 320 more units for housing the scavengers and sweepers was drawn up. This is in addition to 129 huts already built. Special attention is being paid by the Municipal Council to the question of providing housing facilities to the middle and poor classes of people in the City. A New Extension known as the Subedar Chattram Road Extension was formed during the year. One hundred and forty-three sites of various dimensions were formed. Proposals for forming many more extensions are under the active consideration of the Municipality.

The outstanding event of the year was the visit to the City of His Excellency the Viceroy and the Marchioness of Linlithgow on the 13th January 1939. A tastefully decorated pandal had been put up in front of the Municipal Offices for the reception of Their Excellencies by the Municipal Council.

While the schemes formulated by the Municipal Council for the provision of amenities to the citizens are ambitious, they are handicapped for want of sufficient funds. The financial condition of the Municipality continues to cause anxiety. Large arrears of assessed taxes have to be collected. The Municipal Council should speed up the collections and improve their resources so as to be able to discharge not only the obligatory functions but also provide amenities to the citizens in this ever-expanding City.

H. V. NARAYANA RAO,
Secretary to Government,
Law Department.

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